

Serial No.: 09/511,548

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended herein to incorporate the features of claims 9-11, respectively. Claims 4 and 7-11 have been canceled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed on June 18, 2003.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-11 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Kumashiro* in view of *Mu-Tung et al.* Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

i. Present Invention

Claims 1, 2 and 5, as amended, define an image reader and method in which a control section controls the readout section based on a difference between a first data of quantity of light of the first standard white board and a second data of quantity of light of the second standard white board. Such features were previously recited in claims 7-11, now canceled.

As is discussed in the present application, the difference between a first data of quantity of light of the first standard white board (e.g., step S14 in Fig. 8) and a second data of quantity of light of the second standard white board (e.g., step S18) is determined (e.g., step S19). The control section corrects the quantity of the irradiation light of the light source based on such difference (e.g., step S20).

ii. Mu-Tung et al.

The Examiner admits that *Kumashiro* does not teach correcting the quantity of irradiation light based on the reflected light from the white plates. (O.A., p. 2). However, the Examiner contends that *Mu-Tung et al.* describes such a feature.